

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 29, 2003. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-33 are pending. Claims 1-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 19-33 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in the original disclosure, for example, at page 15, line 22 to page 19, line 9 in the specification. Therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 19 and 26 are in independent form.

The Office Action states that a request for a CPA was filed in the subject application on July 28, 2003 and that a CPA has been established. However, Applicants wish to point out that an RCE was filed on July 28, 2003, not a CPA.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,515 (*Yoshimura*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,074,040 (*Usui et al.*). The cancellation of Claims 1-18 renders the outstanding rejections moot.

Independent Claim 19 is directed to a method for producing a film having an ultrahigh water-repellent property. The method comprises the steps of providing a surface on which the film having the ultrahigh water-repellent property is to be formed, heating the surface to a temperature of approximately 300° C, providing a plasma atmosphere for the surface, and coating the surface with a water-repellent material. The produced film having the ultrahigh water-repellent property has a contact angle of at least 170°.

By virtue of the features recited in Claim 19, a surface having an ultrahigh water-repellent property and a very low surface energy can be provided. Thus, the surface is also able to repel oil and to resist contamination, and has strength and stability, such as strength of adhesion and chemical resistance.

Yoshimura relates to a water-repellent film for a nozzle plate of an ink ejecting device. The water-repellent film includes a fluorocarbon resin and a surface active agent, and it is applied to the nozzle plate by, for example, spin coating. However, Applicants submit that, in regard to a method for producing a film having an ultrahigh water-repellent property, nothing in *Yoshimura* would teach or suggest at least heating a surface on which the film is to be formed to a temperature of approximately 300° C, providing a plasma atmosphere for the surface, or that the produced film having the ultrahigh water-repellent property has a contact angle of at least 170°.

Usui et al. relates to an inkjet printer head, its manufacturing method and ink. In the inkjet printer head, a metal layer and a sulfur compound layer are formed on the surface of the nozzle. Gold atoms of the metal layer and sulfur atoms of the sulfur compound layer are covalently bonded and form a water-repellent thin film. However, Applicants submit that, in regard to a method for producing a film having an ultrahigh water-repellent property, nothing in *Usui et al.* would teach or suggest at least heating a surface on which the film is to be formed to a temperature of approximately 300° C, providing a plasma atmosphere for the surface, or that the produced film having the ultrahigh water-repellent property has a contact angle of at least 170°.

Since neither *Yoshimura* nor *Usui et al.*, whether taken singly or in combination (even assuming, for the sake of argument, that such combination were permissible), contains all

of the elements of independent Claim 19, that claim is believed allowable over the cited art. Since independent Claim 26 contains, *inter alia*, features similar or identical to those recited in Claim 19, that claim is also believed allowable over the cited art.

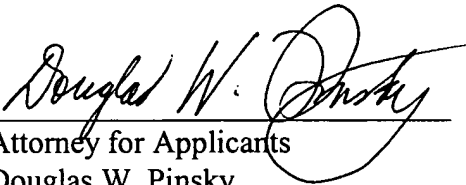
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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